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Canadian Forestry Service-Maritimes

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES
IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1986

In this report, the fourth in 1986, we briefly discuss forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes in mid-September, 1986.

GYPSY MOTH pheromone traps are being picked up by all agencies cooperating in the adult trapping program. Egg mass surveys will depend on the results of trapping. (This is a final reminder to all cooperators that all traps should be submitted to the FIDS Laboratory in Fredericton as soon as possible!)

BROWNING OF WHITE BIRCH ALONG THE BAY OF FUNDY is a condition which has occurred annually since 1979, usually became noticeable around the end of July, intensified in August and early September resulting in severe browning and early leaf drop. It has occurred again in essentially the same areas but appeared much later and at a much reduced intensity than in previous years. The cause of this condition is under investigation but its unusual "behavior" is doubtless related to the unusual weather patterns during 1986.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE spread and intensified in all three provinces. Two additional trees were found infested in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, the disease was found for the first time on Deer Island, New Brunswick, new areas of infection were found in Antigonish, Colchester, Inverness counties and for the first time in Victoria County in Nova Scotia. The intensification of the disease continued in many infected areas in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

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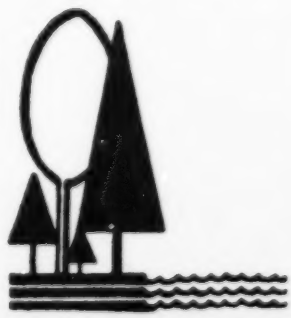

Canadian Forestry Service - Maritimes
P.O. Box 4000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5P7
P.O. Box 667, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E5
P.O. Box 190, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7K2

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SEEDLING-DEBARKING WEEVIL caused tree mortality in at least one recently planted area in Prince Edward Island. The insect, with this report, the first from that Province, becomes a Maritimes-wide plantation pest, capable of causing damage.

SIROCOCCUS SHOOT BLIGHT was found infecting red pine trees in two additional plantations in Prince Edward Island, indicating that the disease may become a factor in future forestry operations in that Province.

WHITEMARKED TUSSOCK MOTH populations increased markedly over past years in Guysborough, southeastern Halifax and southern Antigonish counties in Nova Scotia and caused varying degrees of defoliation on both the hardwood and softwood hosts, mostly white birch, red maple and balsam fir. The populations also increased in southeastern New Brunswick and "lots of larvae" were observed in the Martin Head area.

EUROPEAN LARCH CANKER QUARANTINE regulations have been put into effect by the Plant Health Division of Agriculture Canada, effective July 1, 1986. As the result of these regulations, the movement of certain larch material is restricted from mainland Nova Scotia and the southern part of New Brunswick. Also, certain restrictions now exist regarding the movement of some material within the quarantine area. Further information and/or movement certificates may be obtained by contacting the Food Production and Inspection Branch of Agriculture Canada in Fredericton (phone: (506)-452-3260 or in Halifax (phone: (902)-426-3874).

-L.P. Magasi
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

September 15, 1986

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